

TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting  
March 28, 2012

The Meeting was called to order in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 11 Rye Street, Broad Brook, CT at 7:10 p.m. by Chairman Grant

**ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM:**

A quorum was established as five members (Albert Grant, Jim Stremper, Barbara Halloran, Janice Warren, and Kirk Monstream); Member Robert Slate was absent

Also present was Assistant Town Planner, Robin Newtown and Deputy First Selectman, Alan Baker

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES/February 22, 2012:**

A motion was made by Kirk Monstream and seconded by Albert Grant to approve the minutes of February 22, 2012 as presented.

**COMMUNITY GARDEN:**

Robin Newtown informed us that the Park and Recreation Department Director, Melissa Maltese is well versed in Community Gardens and is willing to help with the application process. Melissa is also looking at parcels in Warehouse Point so that gardens may exist on both sides of Town.

Barbara Halloran provided the commission with a proposed layout of how the plots can be set up. The layout showed the five acre parcel with plot sizes of 20'x30' with 8' between each plot. The Commission determined that we would like to groom the entire parcel, but only provide plots on a small section to start and then enlarge each year depending on how many people rent plots.

Jim Stremper reported that he visited the community garden in Granby and gave us a list of items we need to take into consideration. Granby's plots are 20' x 50' with 5 foot walkways, there is a board with rules and regulations, trash, port-a-potti, weed removal, weed control, fertilizer control, soil samples, compost, water, flowers, waiver, road surrounding plots, registration – age designation; fencing at renter's cost.

The Community Garden was discussed at the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting and Robin provided us with their concerns. They would like to make sure the parking for the Community Garden and the parking for the dog park are separate. They also have asked for a berm on the far west side of the property, 150 feet from the brook. There is a concern of the use of pesticides and asked that we take into consideration having an organic section. Robin Newtown, Jim Stremper and Lenny Norton walked the site and Lenny drew up a map. They determined that there is a lot of space between the property and the brook and that a berm would not be necessary.

Jim also mentioned that there is a section of the property with sumac and that he knows a gentleman who is willing to cut the sumac down to the root for approximately \$1,800. It was recommended that the sumac not be ripped or chopped up and that cutting it would keep it from spreading.

Jim has offered to clear the bottom section of the property and then groom and till the land through the summer. He has also offered to put rye grass down in the fall to help with any erosion.

The commission discussed looking for donations to cover the cost of cutting the sumac.

Robin informed the Commission that the Community Garden was going to be discussed at the Board of Selection meeting on April 3 and recommended that we attend the meeting just in case there were questions from the Board.

#### **COMMUNITY DAY:**

The Commission members agreed to have a table at Community Day. Members were asked to bring ideas to April meeting.

#### **WORK ON DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE GRANT:**

The commission continued to review parcels to determine if they are growing fruit and/or fiber and determining if the farms fall under correct criteria.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Albert Grant discussed a DEEP Grant available for Development Rights.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Halloran, Secretary, East Windsor Conservation Commission